U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Fish Passage Program

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Accomplishments for1999-2003

The 'Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region' (Region) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is home to more than thirty million people. The Great Lakes Ecosystem is the largest system of surface freshwater on earth, and contains more than 90% of the surface freshwater in the United States. The 'Big Rivers' refer to the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers Ecosystems. Both ecosystems support a wealth of natural biological diversity. About 180 species of fishes are native to the Great Lakes, whereas about 140 are native to the upper Mississippi River. Abundance and distribution of many fishes have declined, in part, because of the separation of migratory species such as lake sturgeon and brook trout from important spawning, nursery, and feeding habitats. Thousands of dams, culverts, and other barriers restrict fish movements in rivers and streams of the Region.

The Service initiated the National Fish Passage Program in 1999 to work with others to restore fish populations that declined as the result of habitat fragmentation from the construction of culverts, dikes, dams, and other barriers to fish movement. This fact sheet highlights the accomplishments of the Program.

Before Fish Passage Improvement

Two undersized, failing culverts were replaced by a new bottomless culvert on Johnson's Crossing Road in Otsego County, Michigan. This project, on the headwaters of the Black River, enhances fish passage for native brook trout. Project funding was through the Fish Passage Program, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Black River Restoration Committee, and numerous local non-profit organizations.

After Fish Passage Improvement

-USFWS photos

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 1999, the Region and 46 partners initiated 31 projects to improve fish passage, and completed 19 of them (Table). The Service provided $396,000 toward those 19 projects. The 12 pending projects will be completed during the 2004 field season. More than half of the completed projects renovated culverts that restricted fish movements. The completed projects provided fish access to 183 miles of river and 900 acres of wetland habitat for spawning and feeding.

Hardwood Creek, Michigan fish passage project before (upper) and after (lower) completion.

-USFWS photos

The goal of the National Fish Passage Program is to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by barriers.

Summaries of accomplishments by State follow

A weir was removed from Seven-Mile Creek to enable fish passage.

Iowa

- 7 culvert and weir renovations
- 85 stream miles reconnected
- $25,000 Program contribution
- $40,000 partner contribution

This bridge replaced culverts on the Manistee River in Michigan.

Michigan

- 6 culvert renovations
- 1 dam removal
- 1 watershed inventory
- 55 stream miles reconnected
- $125 Program contribution
- $436 partner contribution

A permanent fish passage structure was added to this box culvert on Grand Portage Creek, Minnesota.

Minnesota

- 3 culvert renovations
- 1 dam removal
- 1 rock ramp construction below dam
- 55 stream miles reconnected
- $106,000 Program contribution
- $90,000 partner contribution

Baskets to capture fish were redesigned in 2000 to more effectively sample fish entering Metzger Marsh in Ohio.

Ohio

- 1 wetland dike renovation
- 900 wetland acres reconnected
- $80,000 Program contribution
- $33,000 partner contribution

Log jams were removed from Graveyard Creek in Wisconsin to enable fish passage.

Wisconsin

- 3 beaver dam removal projects
- 8 stream miles reconnected
- 1 training workshop conducted
- 1 study of fish movements and habitat use
- $60,000 Program contribution
- $71,000 partner contribution

-photo by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Removal of the Dutton Locks Dam and installation of step pools in the Pelican River, Minnesota reconnected 10 miles of stream for lake sturgeon, walleye, and other species.

PARTNERS

Forty-six partners provided 61% of the budgets for the completed projects. Every project required all partners to accomplish the objectives, so partner contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Partners in Regional Fish Passage Program Projects Include:

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Geological Survey
National Park Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.F.W.S.-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
East Lansing Field Office
Marquette Sea Lamprey Control
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, WI
Grande Portage Band of Chippewa, MN
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Deptartment of Environmental Quality
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
White Earth Band of Chippewa, Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Kalkaska County Conservation District, MI
Kalkaska County Road Commission, MI
Cheboygan County Road Commission, MI
Presque Isle County Road Commission, MI
Otsego County Road Commission, MI
Becker County, MN
Vernon County Land Conservation Commission
City of Detroit Lakes, MN
The Ohio State University
Iowa State University
Trout Unlimited
Ducks Unlimited
Tip Of The Mitt Watershed Council
Petoskey Bay Country Club
Upper Manistee River Restoration Committee, MI
Maple Island Log Homes of Michigan
Pelican River Watershed District, MN
Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee, MI
Michigan Flyfishing Club
Montmorency County Conservation Club, MI
The Hungry Canyons Alliance, IA
Conservation Resources Alliance, MI
Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc., MI
Shell Noreast, MI
FishAmerica Foundation
Otsego Wildlife Legacy Society, MI
Lowshaw Brothers, MI
Earthworks, MI
Private Landowners

Table. A history and status of Fish Passage Program projects funded in Region 3, FY99-FY03.

State	Project Title	Project Type	Year Funded	Status
WI	Chippewa River Paddlefish Study	ASSESSMENT	1999	Completed
MI	Tin Shanty Bridge	Culvert Renovation	1999	Completed
MI	Hardwood Creek	Culvert Renovation	1999	Completed
IA	Western Iowa Streams	road crossing grade stabilization	2000	Completed
OH	Western Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands	wetland dike fish passage	2000	Completed
WI	Hornby Creek	Beaver Dam Removal	2000	Completed
MI	McMasters Creek	Culvert Renovation	2001	Completed
MI	Manistee River - Sharon Road	Culvert Renovation	2001	Completed
MI	Stony Creek	Culvert Renovation	2001	Completed
MI	Black River Watershed Inventory	Barrier Inventory	2001	Completed
MN	Grand Portage Creek	Culvert Renovations	2001	Completed
MN	Little Lake Creek	Culvert Renovations	2001	Completed
MN	Pelican River Dutton Locks (Red River)	dam removal	2001	Completed
WI	Graveyard Creek	Remove Beaver Dams	2001	Completed
WI	Building Fish Friendly Stream Crossings	Workshop	2001	Completed
MI	Thunder Bay River - Eichorn Bridge	Culvert Renovation	2002	Completed
MO	Osage River Basin	low water crossing	2002	Pending
WI	Cheyenne Creek	Beaver Dam Removal	2002	Completed
IA	Stream Stabilization MO River Watershed	grade control structures	2003	Pending
MI	Tannery Creek Dam Removal	dam removal	2003	Completed
MI	Saginaw River Watershed	watershed barrier removal planning	2003	Pending
MI	Johnson Crossing Culvert	culvert renovation	2003	Pending
MI	Tomahawk Creek Culvert	culvert renovation	2003	Pending
MI	N. Lower MI Watershed	culvert renovation	2003	Pending
MN	White Earth River Rock Ramp	rock ramp below dam	2003	Completed
MN	Ottertail Dam Removal	dam removal	2003	Pending
MO	Ditch 5 Water Control Structure	Refuge water control structure modification	2003	Pending
MO	Ditch 3 Water Control Structure	Refugewater control structure modification	2003	Pending
OH	Two Ohio Streams Culvert	culvert renovation	2003	Pending
WI	Bark River Culvert	culvert renovation	2003	Pending
WI	Bad River Watershed Fish Passage	culvert renovation	2003	Pending

-USFWS

Before Fish Passage Improvement

A bridge replaced culverts on McMasters Creek in Cheboygan County, Michigan to accomodate flood events and enhance fish passage movement. Brook trout now can move freely through an additional 12 river miles containing quality spawning habitat.

-USFWS

After Fish Passage Improvement

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Visit the National Fisheries Program home page at:
http://fisheries.fws.gov/

Visit the National Fish Passage Program home page at:
http://fisheries.fws.gov/FWSMA/fishpassage/

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